

SUPERINTENDENT SWEARINGEN

Writes a Letter to the Editor and Explains Your School Fund.

Columbia, December 2, 1915.

Col. E. H. Aull, Editor,
Herald and News,
Newberry, S. S.

Dead Sir:

Through the courtesy of one of my friends, your editorial entitled "A Unique Decision," printed in The Herald and News of Tuesday, November 30th, was today brought to my attention. This editorial relates to Zion school district No. 56 of Newberry county.

The editorial is a willful misrepresentation of the record, because the writer was himself familiar with some of the facts, and could have easily secured all the facts from the offices of the county superintendent and the county treasurer in Newberry county.

This editorial charges the state superintendent with autocratic and unfair methods. For the benefit of your readers, I hope you will print the facts as shown by the records here. If any reader questions these facts, he can verify them from the office of the state treasurer, the office of the comptroller general, the office of the county superintendent, or the office of the county treasurer.

For the scholastic year beginning July 1, 1912, and ending June 30, 1913, Zion school district received on November 26, 1912 term extension aid in the sum of \$82.12. This aid was granted upon the application filed by the trustees and approved by the county superintendent. The district was entitled to the money because it had levied a two-mill tax, and because its regular school funds would not support a five months' term.

For the scholastic year beginning July 1, 1913, and ending June 30, 1914, Zion school district received \$200 rural graded school aid. Payment was made March 19, 1914. Upon the request of the county superintendent, the state superintendent waited until the ninth month of the scholastic year in the hope of being able to pay the district this money. The application was filed, as usual, by the trustees with the approval of the county superintendent.

The enrollment for 1913-14 was 54, with an average attendance of 37 during a term of eight months, or 160 days. During this year the voters of Zion school district raised their tax from two mills to four mills in order to become eligible for rural graded school aid.

During the scholastic year 1914-15 Zion school district received \$100 term extension aid. Payment was made December 7, 1914. The application for state aid was filed by the trustees with the approval of the county superintendent as in the two former cases.

In accordance with law, the district received \$100 state aid because of its local tax of four mills which produced more than \$100, and because its regular funds would not run the term five months.

The Zion school reported for the scholastic year 1914-15 an enrollment of 42 with an average attendance of 33 during a term of eight months, or 160 days.

The rural graded school law requires an enrollment of fifty pupils before any district can receive state aid under its terms. I do not know what caused the falling off of the enrollment at Zion. No man regretted the loss more than the state superintendent.

In order, however, to help the district, the state superintendent on May 7, 1915, allotted to the Zion school \$50 from the state contingent appropriation for needy districts. This additional allotment was made upon the application of the district trustees, approved by the county superintendent. It was a genuine pleasure to send the money in order to maintain the school for the usual term of eight months.

For the present scholastic year 1915-16, Zion school district receives \$100, which was paid November 18th, ultimo. The application asking for this money was signed by Messrs. M. H. Folk, J. J. Kinard and G. L. Long, trustees, and approved by Chas. P. Barre, county superintendent.

The state superintendent discussed this application with Mr. Barre, and expressed his regret that Zion could not at that time secure the enrollment of 50 pupils required in a two-teacher rural graded school.

No rural graded school application was sent to the state superintendent for the Zion school for the scholastic year 1914-15, or for the scholastic year 1915-16.

When the rural graded school act was passed in 1912, it was drawn in the office of the state superintendent of education. Its terms were made specific in order that any board of trustees might readily understand the requirements.

Any district having a school with an enrollment of fifty, an average attendance of thirty, a term of

six months, a two-room building, and a four-mill tax is entitled to \$200.

These requirements had not been met in the Zion school district when the trustees filed their application for term extension aid in 1914-15. In the same manner, these requirements had not been met during the scholastic year 1915-16 when the trustees filed their application for term extension aid this year.

I hope the trustees knew their business, and that they were trying to do their best for the school. I am satisfied that they did not intend to misrepresent the facts to the state superintendent, and hence I was glad to pay the claims for these two years.

If the enrollment has reached fifty this fall so as to entitle the school district to rural graded aid for the scholastic year 1915-16, I am sure the trustees do not wish to share in two funds—term extension aid and rural graded school aid—since the law allows only one district to share in only one of these appropriations in any one year.

I am curious to see if the patriotic editor of The Herald and News will have the manhood to print these facts. I ask his advice as to the best method for the state superintendent to use when legal applications are filed from any school district in Newberry county. Shall I honor the signatures of the trustees and the county superintendent, or shall I write to Col. Aull to ask his advice about the performance of the duties of my office?

Every application filed by this district is in the record of this office. Every report sent in by the county superintendent is also on file here. The facts are open to inspection by any citizen, and I invite the most careful scrutiny and examination on the part of any man who cares to look over this record.

Yours respectfully,
J. E. Swearingen,
State Supt. of Education.

"The Man Trail."

On Thursday, December 9, Manager Wells will offer local movie patrons a treat in the Essanay feature "The Man Trail," with an all-star cast including June Keith, Ernst Maupin, John Lorenz, Thos. McLarnie. The following story is pictured in "The Man Trail": John Peabody, athletic, young and sick of city life, visits his uncle's lumber camp and is put to work, although the uncle will not recognize him as a nephew. But when John wins a lumber-sawing contest and subdues a drunken brawl among the lumberjacks, the uncle is pleased and announces him as his nephew and as a future partner. John falls in love with Belle, an adopted daughter of the uncle, "Wolf John." A lumberjack, "Bull" Bart, is also in love with her. Enraged at John's success in love making, "Bull" quits and goes to work for a rival concern, where he plans to hurt John by interfering with his work on the famous King Pines job, which would forfeit "Wolf John's" rights to the timber. John successfully thwarts their every effort although it is a stiff fight. In a shooting fray John and Nels, an assistant, are wounded but victorious. Six months later the King Pines job is finished and Bart challenges John to a duel. They are both to walk down the main street and the one who sees the other first shoots. John kills Bart. Belle admits her love for John.

TAX RETURNS FOR 1916.

Notice is hereby given that the office of county auditor will be open from January 1st to February 20, 1916, inclusive, for the purpose of taking tax returns of personal property for fiscal year 1916. Also the following places will be visited either by myself or an authorized agent for the purpose of securing tax returns. Namely:

Whitmire, Thursday, Jan. 6.
Glenn-Lowry Mfg. Co., Friday, Jan. 7.
Kinards, Tuesday, Jan. 11.
Chappells, Wednesday, Jan. 12.
P. N. Boozer's store, Thursday, Jan. 13.
Silverstreet, Friday, Jan. 14.
Little Mountain, Saturday, Jan. 15.
Longshore, Monday, Jan. 17.
St. Luke's, Tuesday, Jan. 18.
Pomaria, Wednesday, Jan. 19.
Jolly Street, Thursday, Jan. 20.
Prosperity, Friday and Saturday, Jan. 21 and 22.
O'Neill, Monday, Jan. 24.
Maybinton, Wednesday, Jan. 26.

The law requires that tax returns shall be signed and sworn to. Taxpayers will take notice that no returns will be accepted unless made to me or my authorized agent, or some one qualified to administer an oath. It is requested that so far as possible all returns be made to me or my agent. This will save me in preventing errors in your 1916 returns and help to clear up any errors now existing. Come prepared to give the name and number of school district in which you live. Also the school district in which you own other property. Do not ask that your property be taken from the tax duplicate of last year returns.

J. B. HALFACRE,
County Auditor.

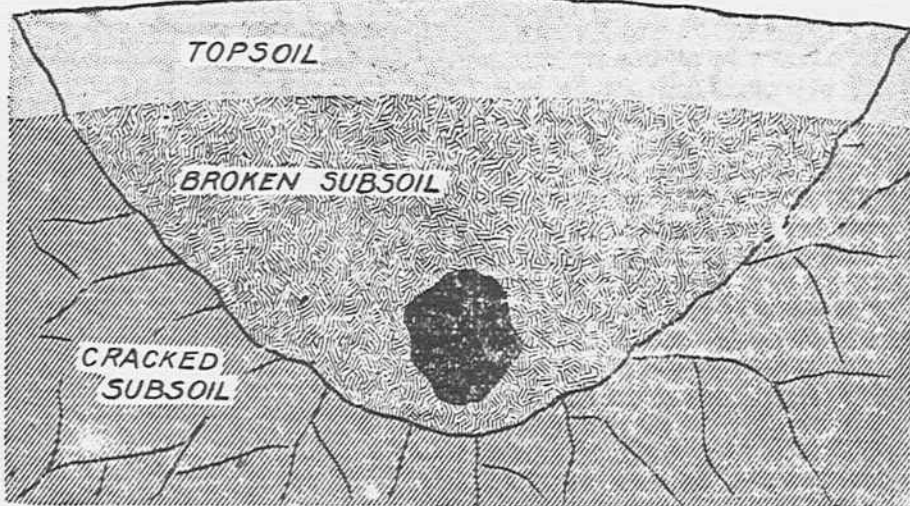
Blasting Ground For Tree Planting

Much has been written on how to plant a tree or trees, but if the experiences of scores of famous orchardists have any weight on the topic, then the practice of using dynamite preliminary to planting young trees has fully proved its merits.

The writer has personally seen specific examples of the value and excellence of tree planting with dynamite on a private orchard in Delaware, the

Blasting for tree planting is best done in the fall, because at this time of the year it is easier to catch the subsoil in dry condition. Blasting in the spring for spring planting, however, is much better than planting in dug holes, notwithstanding the fact that the subsoil is apt to be wet or damp.

If the holes are blasted in advance of the time of setting the trees they are left without further attention until



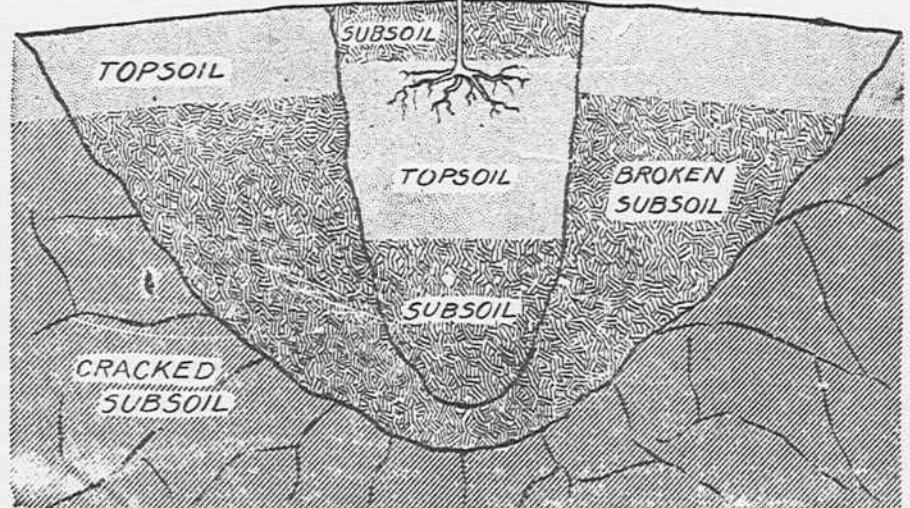
THE BLAST THOROUGHLY CRACKS THE SOIL, BUT USUALLY LEAVES A CAVITY OR POTHOLE AT THE BOTTOM—THIS MUST BE FILLED.

difference in growth between the undynamited tree and the tree planted in blasted ground being so unmistakably in favor of the latter that no adequate comparison could be made.

Furthermore, there are so many sane and logical reasons for this method of tree planting that even the most skeptical could not fail to be convinced. Obviously when a tree has to use a large part of its energies in forcing its roots through the hard soil it cannot be expected to make the same rapid growth and come into such

tree planting time, unless it is desirable to add some manure or fertilizer to be diffused through the soil. This is an excellent practice, especially in poor soil. If the earth is sour, sticky clay a few pounds of lime scattered in the hole will materially assist in flocculating the clay and keeping it permanently granulated and sweet.

Immediately after the blast the soft blasted ground should be dug out down to the location of the charge, where a hole will usually be found about the size of a bushel basket. This



THE ROOTS ARE FIRMLY EMBEDDED IN RICH TOPSOIL, SURROUNDED BY MELLOW, WELL DRAINED SUBSOIL.

early bearing as a tree would that had the ground in which it was planted thoroughly prepared by dynamiting beforehand.

No tree should be planted over hardpan or impacted subsoil without first resorting to blasting, so that the soil may be made open and porous. Such blasting not only creates channels, increases absorption of soil moisture and permits deeper rooting, but it also induces better growth and larger yields.

must be filled to prevent settling of the tree after planting. The roots should be placed in a natural position in good top soil, covered with more top soil and treaded down firm. The hole can then be filled to a little above the surface with subsoil.

The fact that nearly all commercial orchardists use this method proves that it pays in reduced first year loss, earlier fruiting and larger and better yields.

Prizes Offered

By Pepsi-Cola Bottling Works

H. A. Pittard, who manages the Pepsi-Cola Bottling plant in Newberry, offers several prizes for poems by children. The "Poetical effusions" must be worked around the drink Pepsi-Cola; that is, the word "Pepsi-Cola" must be used in the poems, either with a rhyming word or in some good and appropriate connection. The prizes will be as follows:

For the best poem \$5 For third best poem \$1 50
For second best \$2.50 For the fourth \$1
All children everywhere are invited to try for these prizes.

The contest ends 15th day of December, 1915.
Send poems to the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co.
Newberry, S. C.

FOR SALE.

1 12-H. P. Tozier engine mounted.
1 70-saw angle drive Lummus cotton gin with top feeder and condenser with extra bush wheel.

1 Gullet Press, friction drive, self tramper, with 5-inch pin.

1 42 inch Carolina corn mill, top runner with elevator cleaner and shelter.

120 feet of 8-inch Gandy belt, 6 ply;
75 feet 6-inch leather belt; 80 feet 10-inch Gandy belt.

65 feet 2x3x16 shafting, with 3 compression couplings and 9 boxes.

1 shot outfit, cost \$175, consisting of one hand forge, one extra heavy post drill, one screw plat, anvil and vice, etc. This machinery is all practically new and in first class condition. Will

sell cheap for cash or credit.

Also three mules and three and one-fourth inch wagon.

C. L. Leitzsey.

Meteorological Record November, 1915.

Temperature.

Mean maximum, 67.9.
Mean minimum, 41.8.
Mean, 54.9.
Maximum, 83; date 2, 9.
Minimum, 28; date 16, 17, 30.
Greatest daily range, 40.

Precipitation.

Total precipitation, 2.98 inches.
Greatest in 24 hours, 2, 25, 18, 19.
Number of days with .01 inch precipitation, 6; clear, 17; fair, 8; cloudy, 5.
Killing frost, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30.
Rainfall Nov., 1914, 5.02 inches.
Rainfall 11 months 1915, 40.92 inches, which is a deficiency of about 4 inches for the 11 months.

Box Party.

There will be a box party at the residence of Colin L. Graham December 24, 1915, beginning at 6 o'clock, for the benefit of the Methodist parsonage at Pomaria. We invite all the girls of the neighborhood to come and bring a box and help a good cause. There will be a cake walk and music.

Santa Claus, Auctioneer. C. L. Graham, Clerk.

Perkins Improvement Association.

The School Improvement association met at the Perkins school Thursday. Miss Willie Mae Wise met with us and organized a home demonstration club. We had nine home makers and five prospective home makers—that is five girls. We meet again the third Friday in January. All the ladies are invited. After our business the girls served sandwiches, coffee, sweet bread, pickles and cucumbers.

Call Meeting.

Woodmen of the World, Newberry Camp No. 542 will meet on Monday night at 8 o'clock in Klettner's hall to confer the noon degree. All W. O. W. members are invited to attend.

F. H. Campsen, Clerk
G. W. Harrison, Acting C. C.
Nathan Morris, Banker.

Lever-Shealy.

On November 25, 1915, at the Mt. Tabor parsonage, in Prosperity, Mr. George E. Lever, a clerk in the post-office in Columbia, was married to Miss Nellie Ray Shealy of Little Mountain, by the Rev. J. B. Harman.

Notice—I have a store house and dwelling house for rent cheap at Harmon, S. C., in No. 6 township and on rural route No. 1 out of Kinards S. C., and can give parties possession on January 2, 1916. Parties wishing to rent apply to J. J. Amick, Chappells, S. C. 12-7-1tw2t

Christmas Holiday Rates

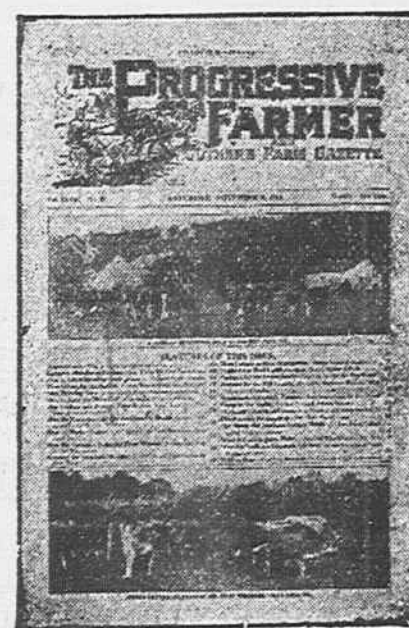
The Charleston and Western Carolina Railway will sell cheap excursion tickets account of the Holidays, tickets on Sale December 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 1915, final limit Jan. 19th, 1916.

For rates, etc., apply to ticket agents or,

ERNEST WILLIAMS,
Gen. Pass. Agt.,
Augusta, Ga.

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The Progressive Farmer has the strongest, most practical household department of any agricultural paper in the South. Its many features make a special appeal to our women readers and help them as it does the men.

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The Housewife is a large, well printed magazine; subscription price, 50 cents per year. It is only because the publishers are anxious to develop their subscription list in the South that we have been able to secure a rate on these subscriptions that enable us to include it in this year's clubbing offers with The Progressive Farmer. We know you will be highly pleased if you decide to take the club, including The Housewife.



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